

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (original): A conveying apparatus for spout-equipped bags comprising a rotary type transfer apparatus and a rail type conveying apparatus wherein

said rotary type transfer apparatus comprises:

a transfer rotor having a plurality of spout holding members disposed on a circumference thereof, said spout holding members being formed with holding grooves that are oriented radially outward and hold said spouts at grooves located between flanges formed on said spouts,

a driving means which causes said transfer rotor to rotate intermittently a predetermined angle at a time, and

a push-out device which, above said holding grooves, pushes said spouts out of said holding grooves of said spout holding members that are stopped at a predetermined stopping position by means of a pusher which advances and retracts in a radial direction of said transfer rotor; and

said rail type conveying apparatus is disposed on a downstream side of said rotary type transfer apparatus and is comprised of a transfer rail device that is disposed on a furthest upstream side of said rail type conveying apparatus as a part of said rail type conveying apparatus, said transfer rail device comprising:

transfer rails which are installed so as to be oriented radially outward from said stopping position and are used to receive spouts of spout-equipped bags from said holding grooves of said spout holding members stopped at said stopping position and transfer said spouts to a following rail type conveying apparatus, and

a driving means which moves said transfer rails from a position where said transfer rails are installed to a retracted position in which said rails receive no spouts.

Claim 12 (original): The conveying apparatus for spout-equipped bags according to Claim 11, wherein

a plurality of grooves are formed in side surfaces of said spouts so as to be at vertically different levels,

said spout holding members of said transfer rotor and spout guides provided on

said transfer rails are disposed at different heights; and wherein

grooves of said spouts that are held in said holding grooves of said spout holding members and grooves of said spouts into which said spout guides of said transfer rails are inserted are positioned at different heights in an vertical direction of said spouts.

Claim 13 (original): The conveying apparatus for spout-equipped bags according to Claim 12, wherein:

among pair of spout guides of said transfer rails, a spout guide that is positioned on a front side with respect to a direction of rotation of said transfer rotor extends to a position that overlaps with a movement path of centers of spout holding positions of said spout holding members of said transfer rotor, and

said transfer rails are arranged so as to swing within a horizontal plane; and wherein

when spouts that are held by said spout holding members and moved are brought into contact with a spout guide that is positioned on a front side with respect to a direction of rotation of said transfer rotor, said transfer rails swing horizontally and escape from said movement path.

when spouts that are held by said spout holding members and moved are brought into contact with said transfer rails, said transfer rails swing horizontally and escape from said movement path.

Claim 14 (original): The conveying apparatus for spout-equipped bags according to Claim 11, wherein said push-out device is provided with a safety mechanism which automatically stops a movement of said pusher toward outside in a radial direction of said transfer rotor when a resistance that exceeds a predetermined value is applied to said pusher during said movement of said pusher toward said outside.

Claim 15 (original): The conveying apparatus for spout-equipped bags according to Claim 14, wherein

a plurality of grooves are formed in side surfaces of said spouts so as to be at vertically different levels,

said spout holding members of said transfer rotor and spout guides provided on said transfer rails are disposed at different heights; and wherein

grooves of said spouts that are held in said holding grooves of said spout holding members and grooves of said spouts into which said spout guides of said transfer rails are inserted are positioned at different heights in an vertical direction of said spouts.

Claim 16 (original): The conveying apparatus for spout-equipped bags according to Claim 15, wherein:

among pair of spout guides of said transfer rails, a spout guide that is positioned on a front side with respect to a direction of rotation of said transfer rotor extends to a position that overlaps with a movement path of centers of spout holding positions of said spout holding members of said transfer rotor, and

said transfer rails are arranged so as to swing within a horizontal plane; and
wherein

when spouts that are held by said spout holding members and moved are brought into contact with a spout guide that is positioned on a front side with respect to a direction of rotation of said transfer rotor, said transfer rails swing horizontally and escape from said movement path.